

Message

From: Rausch, Heidi [Rausch.Heidi@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/3/2020 1:58:47 PM
To: Zimny, James [zimny.james@epa.gov]
CC: King, Carol [King.Carol@epa.gov]
Subject: Lower Umatilla Basin (LUB) update
Attachments: EPA Umatilla ltr to ODA OHA ODEQ_0702 R10 signed.pdf; State of Oregon Response to EPA - LUGWMA v08182020 sent Aug 24 2020 (002).pdf

Hi James,

As Carol mentioned yesterday we wanted to provide you with an update on the Lower Umatilla Basin nitrate matter, which you will find below. I have attached the letters that are mentioned in the update. When WED management sends the Friday email to Rosemarie, that includes this update, can Carol and I please be copied and/or forwarded the email so we have it for our records?

WED continues to work with Region 10 as it assesses the issues raised in Food and Water Watch's January 16, 2020 SDWA section 1431 petition regarding nitrate contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. Most recently, the Region sent a letter to the Oregon state agencies that are involved in the Lower Umatilla Basin ground water management area (LUB GWMA) action plan. Region 10 ECAD sent the letter on July 2 and Oregon responded by August 24 (PDFs of both letters are attached). The state's letter outlines actions that are being taken under the LUB GWMA action plan by four agencies: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). The letter also identifies next steps for improving the LUB GWMA domestic well data, which involves DEQ, OHA and ODA working together to compare a growing list of wells known to OWRD and the dataset of nitrate well test results that DEQ and OHA maintain to better understand nitrate contamination over time. The letter also mentions that OHA staff are using real estate databases to better guide targeted outreach among community member/homeowners and real estate agents. As Region 10 finishes reviewing information and develops options for how to respond to the January petition, WED will continue to assist the Region and we will keep OECA management informed of any important developments. Additionally, we want to note that in July Food and Water Watch submitted a FOIA request related to its petition and LUB GWMA. Region 10 has the lead for responding to the FOIA.

Thanks and let me know if you have any questions,

Heidi Rausch
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